## WORKINGMEN AS THEY ARE. HOW THE PANIC AFFECTS THE LABORING

OFOSTION OF THE UNEMPLOYED-THE STRENGTH AND RESOURCES OF THE TRADES-UNIONS-WHAT THEY ARE DOING FOR THE DESTITUTE-THEIR ADVANTAGES AND THEIR DEFECTS-WAGES OF THE EMPLOYED.

The condition of the workingmen of New-The condition of the voltagement of the Fall and Winter, has called out the wildest speculation and has been the cause for publication of a vast amount of misinformation. The class who clamer for "bread or misinformation." blood," and prefer the latter to honest hard work for the former, have exaggerated the number of the unand the extent of suffering among them. On the other hand, there have not been wanting those who have talked lightly of the whole matter and asserted men out of work are not more numerous than at [the same time last year. The truth lies between the two. In most of the building trades, nd in those which depend upon them, in the fron works, among the journeymen working for clothing ong the cabinetmakers, the effects of the panie have borne heavily; there has been and now is nuch privation, and rarely is the hope expressed of peeds amendment. In several of the trades outside of the above the men are almost as well off as a year ago; the necessarily idle are not many, and there has been no ressive reduction of wages. In other trades still, the depression is marked, work had been so brisk and remunerative before the panic that the majority of have lost work were protty well prepared, nd have not yet exhausted their resources. As the ers and employed, it may be estimated that, oking the trades through and including day laborers, 28 per cent of the workingmen of the city are idle, or have so little work that they may be counted as such. In considering this proposition—which at first sight is alarming—the important consideration must be noted that this mouth is invariably among the dullest of the year for working-folk, and that in the best of scasons a very large proportion of people in the great building unoccupied. This proportion is now much For these trades there is not the usual encour gement of sufficient and lucrative occupation in the As was recently shown in these columns, there the extent and outlay of former years. It i ut employers generally declare that unless rofit in extensive operations will hardly for the undertaking. Like complaint of un oyers in some other lines. Some boot and of Crispins are not less grasping.

ng up the standard of wages set by the tradesblost of the officers of these stoutly assert that enerally because of the templation to get work done at notably cabinetmakers and clothing tailors n generally heavy. A decrease of working been the well-nigh universal plan. Some e tablishments are returning to full time, but as yet there a no general and hopeful revival of activity. The stand-ind of pay for the best trained labor is, however, on the yeals, little tower than in 1873.

tion naturally comes up, What are the labor rganizations doing to relieve distress in their ranks ! much as organizations. Most of them disclaim hat as a part of their duties. Their province, say they, neroachments of employers, as also-it may be underoroprizations for the unemployed, say that no cases ure notify demanding relief have yet been brought before their securities. If such should come up provision would be made. Lack of applications for relief is easily explained. As mutual protection, not mutual relief, is the first object of the union, the destitute hesitate to ask help from their respective associations. Moreover, the sharpest distress is generally outside the organizations, the members of which stand together, and often have the help of the society in efforts to obtain work. Besides, the associations include the men who have drawn the highest wages in both prespectors and unpresperous times, and who, better than the outsiders, approach to the former standard of pay. Several of them, as the Coopers and Laborers Union, have changed their organization within it for menths by shearing off the least competent, the unen who first lose work at a time like this. Of course, the societies give nothing but discouragement to the outsiders, and among those there must be much suffering. It is impossible to gauge the extent and intensity of this. Only approximate estimates of the number of the memployed among the society men can be obtained, and information is far more uncertain concerning the non-seciety men from the lack of comprehensive sources of information.

In the approximate statement of the number of the samployed in the various trades, it must be remembered that a proportion of those who are counted as out of work in each trade may (as a small number certainly have done) have got occupation outside of their own trade. The depression in all branches of activity has made this number amaller than at other seasons, when many of those whose trade is comparatively at a standatili in Winter, have been won't to secure temporary employment of other kinds. This, to some extent, has a ways been the case in the building trades. A considerable number, too, have left the city since the depression began, but as no record of these can be got, they too go to swell

they too go to swell the number set down as out of work.

Herewith are given details concerning the various trades unloos, their numbers and resources, with estimates of the proportion of unemployed. The aggregate amount of fands in the treasures of trades moons of this city is estimated at about \$100,000. Their income comes from initiation fees, monthly or weekly dues, fines, and assessments. The changes in their relations of employed with employee, in the last two years, consist mainly in reductions of time and reductions of force, and the employment of boys where men were formerly used.

THE MEN IN THE BUILDING TRADES. The largest labor organization in the city is the Labor ers' Umon, which has seven divisions, with a total of over the day laborers connected with the building trade. The number of day laborers in the city outside of these is variously estimated from 7.000 to 12,000. A great many come from the constry in the busy months and return in the Autumn. Of the organized laborers related to the building trades a very large proportion now have no work. The estimates run from 5,500 to 7,000. Many have been idle for four months, and there is a mournful excess of privation among them. In the divisious the initiation fee is 85, and 25 cents is required monthly. The burial appropriation is \$50, and denations are made to widows and orphass of deceased members. An allowance is made to sick members, and in this way there is now a considerable demand upon the funds, which range from \$4,000 to \$3,000 in the several branches. The divisions do not, in their organized capacity, take cognizance of cases of distress coming from lack of work. The standard of wages is now, as it has been for two years, \$2.50 per day, but some are working for \$2 or less. In 1872, \$2.75 was paid to plasterers' laborers. In that year the Union was reorganized, and common, unskilled laborers were dropped.

The Department of Public Works, on Jan. 18, had in amploy 2,866 men—1,354 on the poolewards and avenues, \$45 on the big pipes, 190 on the reservoir and aqueduct, \$45 on the sewers and streets employ about 2,500, and on the Fourth-ave, improvement, for which the city pays half, about 2,000 men are busy. The Department of Public Works about 450. Near 8,000 men, then, are given employed the sewers and streets employ about 2,500, and on the Fourth-ave, improvement, for which the city pays half, about 2,000 men are busy. The Department of Public Works about 450. Near 8,000 men, then, are given employment in only work, the standard for common labor teng \$2 per day. The Sandard was the same in 1873 and 1871.

There are three lodges of Pricklayers in the city containing somewhat over 2,500 members. One of these lodges is German. The number of bricklayers in New York has been c 7,000 members. These include all but comparatively few of the day laborers connected with the building trade. The

and for eacht hours' work, but in 1812 ten hours and for eacht hours' work, but in 1812 ten hours a day's work, for which \$4.50 was paid in Winter in Summer. The bricklayers' lodges have considerable their treasuries. In that of Lodge No. 2

is \$2.000. The initiation fee is \$3, the monthly payment 25 cents. The allowance in case of a strike is \$12 per week for fathers of families and \$1 for single men. The organization has made no special effort for the unemploved, except to send some from the city.

Stone cutters are divided into brown-stone cutters, marble outters, and granite cutters. The association of brown-stone-cutters includes about all of that craft in the city-nearly [,500]—and has a fund of \$3,500, which is chiefly reserved for the contingency of a strike, when \$5 per week is allowed to each man out. The initiation fee is \$5 for boys who have served their time here, and \$10 for others, with a monthly payment of 50 cents. There is no provision for the sick or unemployed, but there is a regular burial appropriation of \$50. About three-quarters of the brown-stone cutters are idle, and the number of the unemployed is not likely to diminish before May, as their busy season is in the Simmer. Extensive or severe distress is wanting in this class, for most of them have husbanded means in prosperous times. Their wages are \$4.50 for eight hours, and were the same in 1873 and 1872. Of marble cutters, there are 700 or 800 in the city, but their organization seems to have outlived its activity. The business has been very duil of late. Most of the marble cut in New York is sent to other cities, and it cannot be sold at very gainful rates, because if prices ruled too high the stone would be cut in the cities to which it is now sont. Hence while the brown-stone cutters work feth hours, the marble cut ters work ten hours, and although \$4.50 is the asserted standard of pay for the latter, the usual rate at present is from \$5 to \$4. Most of the marble cutters are now out of work and in precarous circumstances. The granife cutters almost all belong to one association, and are a lattle less than 200 in number. Most of those who are not idle are employed by the Departments of Public works and of Docks. About one-half lack work, but do not present cases of sev

The standard of wages is \$5 50 for eight neurs, and has been the same for some years.

The estimated number of the carpenters of New-York is about 4,000. There are three organizations among them, the Empire Lodge of American Carpenters, the United Order of American Carpenters and Joiners, and the Amaigamated Carpenters and Joiners. The numbers of these organizations have much declined this season from the deeparture of men into the country and from other causes. In the Empire Lodge are now 1,100 members, in the United Order about 1,000, and in the Amaigamated organization isas than 300. Over one-half of the society members have no work at their trade. Among the non-society men the proportion of unemployed is not so large, but the men work for less wages, \$2.50 and \$3. The society standard is now \$1.50 for cight hours, while the best still get \$1. In January, 1875 and 1871, the wages were \$4 for eight hours. Suffering among unemployed carpenters is not so marked as in some other trades. Empire Lodge appropriates \$5 per week for destitute members out of work, and the United Order gives relief where it is indispensable. Both societies have considerable funds in the treasury. Each requires an initiation fee of \$1, and ten earts weekly payment. There has been some division among the carpenters which has impaired these societies, which had formerly

speak in discouraging terms both of the present and the men are working on largely reduced time. The rate of establishments, while others have not reduced at all. A small part of the iron workers have not reduced at all. A small part of the iron workers have got work elsewhere. In good seasons iron-molders on plece-work average \$1 ng ood seasons iron-molders on plece-work average \$1 per day, and when paid by the day \$150 to \$1 for 10 hours. Now they are receiving from \$1 50 to \$1 50; the finishers make the same wages; helpers get from \$1 50 to \$1 50, and laborers from \$1 25 to \$2 50. Machinists in iron works average \$2 75 per day, boiler-makers \$2 75, and blacksmiths \$3 25. The iron-molders have an association with four branches and an aggregate membership of about 900, but the organization is not very compact or powerful, and is not able to proven the employment of non-society men along with society men in the largest

according to the age of the deceased.) to the family of a member upon his death. The payment by this mutual life-insurance plan now averages about \$1,000. The number of machinists and blacksmiths in this city is estimated from 3000 to 4,000. The trade here is much overstocked, and partly for that reason, but mainly on account of the general depression, nearly one-third of the whole number have had no work at their trade for a considerable time, some for four months, some for three months, and some for two months. As the trade was pretty active and renumerative in 1872 and 1873, there is not so much privation among the machinists and blacksmiths as in some other classes of workmen. Of society-men three are not more than 200 idle. Most of the employed are working on reduced time, many at eight hours. The divisions of the Union, unlike many of the labor organizations, acknowledge as their object mutual relief as well as mutual protection, but have had as yet few calls upon their charity. That they may yet come in is not improbable, as it is generally admitted that there is no hope of the trade improving soon. The average wages has been considerably coil down. In 1872 and 1873 it was from \$2 to \$1 50 for 16 hours work; now Union men are working at from \$2 25 to \$3 50, and non-society men at from \$2 to \$3. The divisions have usually moderate funds on hand. One, for example, has \$1,000.

The Amalgamated Society of Engineers, Machinists Millwrights, and Pattern-Makers has two lodges in this city, with 218 members. This society is international, and has its headquarters in London. Every year there is an equalization of funds among the lodges, the richer ones making donations to the poorer. The ledges look after the needs of their members, and suffer none in grave need to go unassisted. Their officers state that those in the trade who have come here from about are, discouraged, and are returning wherever able. Over 300 have gone within a few weeks. The state of the trade here is ad, with considerable distress, about one

THE WORKERS IN WOOD.

The number of the cabinetmakers in New-York is estimated to be over 5,000. Eight hundred of these are combined in the United Cabinetmakers of New-York, and the extent of distress among them is shown by the fact the extent of distress among them is shown by the fact that 300 members of the Society have not been able to pay their dues monthly of 25 cents. At its last meeting the Society voted, on account of the prevailing distress, to remit the payment of dues for two months. It is computed that over one-half of the whole number in the city are out of work, and the rest are commonly on wretched wages. No smail part of them have been idle for four months, and the closed shops do not promise early opening. The present average of wages among the Society men employed is from \$0 to \$11 per week, the workman fornishing his own tools. Time has not been cut down to any extent, but the reduction of wages has been very heavy. In January, 1873, cabinetmakers received from \$15 to \$15 per week, and in 1872, from \$17 to \$29. The trade is much overstocked by arrivals from Germany, which furnishes the majority of the men. Outside of the Society men are more putifully paid, making only from \$7 to \$9 per week, and many of them working 12 and 14 hours daily for that. The Society has in fund \$800. It has a plan of insuring the tools of its members, and to this end, and as a reserve for strikes, the fond is mainly kept. Some relief has been given from it this month, but sufferers hesitate to apply to the Society for help which lies outside of its special province. At its last meeting the organization appropriated \$25 as a beginning of relief for families of the men imprisoned on account of the Tompkins square disturbance.

The coopers have a large and well-organized Union, the headquarters, from which is given \$5 to cach man, with allowance for his family if he have any. Casea of sickness or unavoidable distress are relieved from the care local funds. As business has been very brick for two or three years with good wages, and as not more than one sixth of the society men and one-third of the non-society men are out of when he accessary, to places where their opportunity for employment may be better. A small part have gone into the occurrent that 300 members of the Society bave not been able to pay

have been out down, but not largely; they employ many boys where the society shows employ men. This month the Union agreed to a reduction of ten ber cent on alrup barrels and provision work. Many shops are working three-fourths time. In the petroleum branch cooperage has been brisk in spite of the panie. In the sugar-house and provision branches employers complain of dulineas, and task of a general reduction of wages. A large proportion of the men are on piece-work. By piece-work and day pay the society men average from \$2.75 to \$4 for ten hours, and the non-society men considerably loss. In 1873 and 1872 the average was from \$1 to \$4.

The ship carpenters, caulkers, and spar-makers of New-York number together about 1,200 men, the first named being about 600 strong, the caulkers 503, and the spar-makers little over 10c. The caulkers have an association which comprises all in the trade. The initiation is \$2 and the monthly payment 15 cents. They have a fund of over \$10,000. These have been no demands upon this on account of loss of work. No severe destination exists in either of the three cleases of earpeaters, caulkers, or spar-makers. Their occupation is almost exclusively in repairing, and is rather uncertain. One day nearly all are at work and a week after most of them are temperaring life. The wages are high, \$1 for him hours, and have been the same in the last two years.

The ship-joiners formerly had an association, but

Top ship-joiners formerly had an association, but the fit bas been broken up or has lost its effectiveness. There are about 690 in the city, five-sixths of whom are idle and have been for a considerable time. In Spring they look for occupation in repairing steamboats for Summer work. The average of waces is now from 31 to \$150 for muc hours. In 1817 and 1873, the average was \$150. As they are commonly a provident class, they show little distress.

CONDITION OF LONGSHOREMEN, CIGAR-MAKERS, AND

The longshoremen of the city number nearly 3,500, with three lodges, which include the whole of the class. No. 2 is by far the largest, having over 2,500 members and a fund of more than \$20,000. A year ago in this month the men had all the work they could do, but now they say that near one-half are tale. Some stevedores, on the other hand, assert that the number out of work is not much greater than it usually has been, and is largely made up of the least competent. There can be no question, however, that those who discharge sailing vessels are, to a considerable extent, unable to get work, while the steamer business is much lighter than it has been. But there appears no reason to suppose very extensive or severe destitution in this class. They are now in bit-ter opposition to the principal firm of stevedores, and are making efforts that merchants and others shall deal directly with them instead of through the stevedores. Their lodges have never aimed at special effort to relieve destitution if any existed, and have made no donations for that purpose this Winter. Their initiation fee is \$5, and their mounthy payment 15 cents. They appropriate \$50 for the burial of a member or a member's wife. Their wages are now the same as in 1873 and 1872, at cents per hour and double pay after 6 p. m., but they complain of unprecedented exactions on the part of certain stevedores. month the men had all the work they could do, but now

In December than one-tenth cannot get work. In the new not more than one-tenth cannot get work. In the Fall and early Winter there was much distress in this class, for which the societies could do nothing from lack of means, even if they had the will. Because of the panic many employers cut down wages 25 per cent. A few have now restored the former rate. In the highest rate shops men and women alike average from \$21 to \$14 per week, but the general average for the city is much lower, ranging from \$16 to \$18. In 1873 the average of wages was about 25 per cent higher than at present and held the same ratio to the average of the

THE MAKERS AND CUTTERS OF CLOTHING. much. Last year their weekly o \$12, and in 1872 from \$12 to \$14. was from \$10 to \$12, and in 1872 from \$12 to \$14. From 10 to 12 shillings are now paid for making a coat, and from three to six shillings for vests and trowsers. The trade is much overstocked in this city, where most of the large wholesale houses have their work done. Some have their labor in Newurk and other places in New Jersey.

wholesale houses have their work done. Some have their haber in Newark and other places in New-Jersey, and in Williamsburgh.

Of journeymen working for merchant tailors there are about 2.500 in the city, 1.765 of whom belong to the New-York Tailors' Protective and Benevolent Union, which includes mon of every mathomatity and every grade. Few of this class are idle, but very many can only get partial occupation. The trade is, however, improving, and the employed are much better off than in the Fall. There has not been a really healthy season for two years, and men with families are suffering some privation. The Union has a safety find of \$5,000 and a burial fund of \$1.100, but gives no said as an organization to the unemployed. Its officers say that the wages have been good and the men must provide for themselves. The standard of wages is \$15 per week for in-doors work, and men on piece-work, at the society standard, can make \$15 per week. The standard, ranging from \$12 to \$15 per week. The standard has been the same for the last two years, but more shops cut under it than formerly, as the society cannot enforce its rates during the depression.

as the society cannot enforce its rates during the de-pression.
Of clothing cutters there are about 1.800 in the city, 1.200 of whom are organized in eight lodges. No. 2, the German lodge, is the largest of these and has 600 members with a fund of \$7,000; the money in the treas-nries of the others ranges from \$5,000 to \$400. Over one-third of the Cutters are out of work, including near 400 society-men, but the trade now has a better look than for six months past and many of the men are getting back work. There is little suffering in this class, as their wages have been good and something has been laid aside. The lodges reserve their funds for protec-tion, and make no provision for sickness or want of work. Wages have been reduced during the depression from \$14 to \$18 and \$20 per week. The standard in Janu-ary, 1873, was \$24 and in 1872 \$22 per week.

CONDITION OF HATTERS, BRUSH-MAKERS, PRINTERS, AND PIANO-MAKERS.

There is an association of hatters in New-York celled the Trade Association of Journeymen Hat Finishers, 495 strong, which includes all the silk hat workers of the city. There is very little done upon felt hats in New-York. The journeymen hat fluishers have a strong organization, with a lodge fund reserved for the con-

York. The journeymen hat fluishers have a strong organization, with a lodge fund reserved for the contingency of a strike. The business has fallen off much of late years. The 50 per cent duty on silk plush, which, it is said, cannot be manufactured in this country, is a great embarrassment, as those in the the trade assert, and efforts are new making for its abolition. Last Autumn was the worst season ever seen in the trade. Next month activity will begin. The average pay of silk hatters, taking the year throughout, is from \$15 to \$17 per week, but they are necessarily idle a large part of the time. A good workman, if supplied with all the piece-work he could do, would be able to make \$40 per week at the present rates.

The brushmakers are united in the Brashmakers' Ennevotent Association, Lodge No. 1, about 300 strong. The Association has an initiation fee of \$1 and requires monthly payment of 25 cents. It relieves destitute members and sends out of the city those who expect work clsewhere. Brushmakers make from \$12 to \$15, and there is no distress to be noted in this class. The standard of wages was the same in 1873 and 1872.

The printers have a powerful secret organization—Typographical Union No. 6—with nearly 2,700 members. The mem at work on Adams' presses have a small society of their own with 170 members. The number of printers outside of these organizations is very small, as also is the number now out of work in the city. In November and December some share of them had no occupation, but the Union sent some from the city where their opportunities were better, and provided others with work here. The organization is very flourishing and has a large fund, part of which is to be devoted to building a hail for the Union. There is certainly no distress in this class. Their wages have not varied during the last two years, and are as follows: Day work, \$22 per week; night work, \$24 per week; in job offices.

The plane-makers are estimated to number some \$0.00.

per week; at newspaper piecework, 45 to 35 cents per 1,000 cms.

The piano-makers are estimated to number some 3,000. There has been an association among them with 300 members, but it does not appear to have union, force, or coherence at present. Hardly one-tenth of the piano-makers are idle, but most of the shops are working, either one-half or three-fourths time. Employers state that several will resume full time soon. The reduction of wages from last year's rates ranges from 21 to 20 per cent. The present averages are, for regulators, 20 to 22 per week; finishers, 318 to 320; sounding-board makers, \$17 to \$20; case-makers, \$18; varnishers, \$16.

There is not apparent much destitution in this class.

OTHER TRADES.

In the remaining trades of the city, which are less in umbers and importance, there are associations, but of less strongth and activity than those aircady given. In these trades the average mumber out of work is considcrable, but there is no such wide-spread destitution as

## THE NEW-YORK DOCKS.

IMPROVEMENTS OF THE RIVER FRONT HE DOCK COMMISSIONERS' PLANS FOR NEW PIER AND A RIVER WALL IN THE VICINITY OF CHICISTO PHER-ST.

The most extensive and important single work yet undertaken by the present Board of Dock Commissioners is the construction of the new piers on what is known as "The Christopher-st. Section." The proposed river-wall of this section extends from a point just purth of the ferry-boat landing at Christopher at. to the south side of West Eleventh-st., about 1,200 feet, and three piers are to be built out from it.

Old Piers 51, 52, and 53, previously occupying this section, though in a duapidated condition, were, with the adjoining basin on the north, the site of an extensive business, including the main branch of the oyster trade of the city. The old piers and docks had for some time been useless for the purposes of ordinary scagoing vessels, or even for coastwise craft of any size. The peculiar curre of the river bank just above produced a spe cies of " back-set." which prevented the sewerage from being exerted off by the tides or current, and an immens September last, the bottom at the old bulkhead line was The driving of the piles for the foundation of the new

wall has been partly completed for about 350 feet from the point of beginning, and work upon it is now making rapid progress.

The geteral plan adopted for the new system of plera the point of beginning, and work upon it is now making rapid progress.

The general plan adopted for the new system of plera rendered necessary not only a change in the numbering of the plers but also important changes and improvements in their forms, proportions, and the docks included by them. The three new piers are, therefore, to be Nos. 44.45, and 46, instead of Nos. 51, 52, and 53; and, beginning at the new bulkhead line, extend much further into the river, obviating some, at least, of the disadvantages which tended to destroy the value of the old structure. The new piers are very much superior in workmanship and general appearance, as well as in strength and prospective durability to any others on the river front.

The piles all of which are of good size and quality, are driven at less than the usual distances apart; the

The piles all of which are of zoon size and quanty are driven at less than the usual distances apart; the timber superstructure is well fastened, so far as built; and the broad, solid surface of the piers thomselves promises to afford every facility for the receipt and delivery of even the heaviest goods. Pier No. 44 already extends over soo feet out from the new buikhead line, is partly covered or "decked," and will soon reach its outer limit of 565 feet. This pier will have a width of 50 feet. Pier No. 45 has been "piled" for over 300 feet from the buikhead, and its upper timbers are being placed with all possible rapidity. Its fail length will be as feet, and its width 80 feet. Pier No. 45 has been "piled" for about 200 feet, and will have when flashed a length of

sand and five of broken stone, and are found by direct experimental tests to surpass in toughness and strength any other artificial stone manufactured. From this point upward the wait is composed of concrete, of the same proportions and strength, laid on the spot in mass, and faced with granife masonry. The width of this wall at the base, or top of the pile foundation, is 17 feet, and at the top or cope about 9; feet.

The machinery employed in the 'prosecution of this work is of the best and most efficient description. The five steam pile drivers are now steadily employed, driving from 100 to 130 piles per day, and the two steam dredges are still engaged upon the dredging, as opportunity permits. From 160 to 170 men are constantly employed mostly dock-builders and mechanics.

necessary gracite has been dressed from the rough stone.

The number of piles aircady driven is over 2,500, and those yet to be required for this section are for the greater part either on hand or contracted for. It is understood that piers Nos, it and if are to be used immediately on their complerion by the White Star line of steamers, at a yearly rental of \$15,000.

This entire work has been from the beginning under the exclusive direction of the engineer-in-chief of the Department, Gen. Charles K. Graham, assisted by John D. Van Buren, ir., assistant engineer.

RECORD OF THE DEPARTMENT'S WORK.

When the Department of Docks was created the piers and balkheads of the city were in a very rainous condition, and only a small wharfage was received by the

tion, and only a small wharfage was received by the Controller. The Commissioners consumed nearly a year in investigating the legal titles to the piers, many being

and batkheads of the city were in a very rainous condition, and only a small wharfage was received by the Controller. The Commissioners consumed nearly a year in investigating the legal titles to the plers, many being owned by private persons, in having a survey made by their enginers of the river front, and in investigating and having draw up plans for a new dock system.

The achievements of the Board of Docks, therefore, during the first two vests of its existence, or during the interim of office of the original Commissioners, may be summed up as follwar:

First, a topographical and hydrographical survey of the entire shore line of the island, during which 50,000 "soundings" and upward of 5,500 "borings" were made, most of the borings being continued down to solid rock, all of the entineeting work being doos under the supervision of Geo. E. McClellan, the Engineer-in-Chief. Second, the plotting and mapping of these surveys in detail. Third, the solection and adoption of a plan of construction, involving the study of similar works in Europe. Fourth, the laying out of suitable work-yards and the selection of proper machinery. Fifth, the actual beginning of the proposed work. Sixth, the necessity of meeting the demands of commerce by constant repairs and reconstruction of the existing piers.

Twenty-five new piers were built under the immediate supervision of the existing piers.

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Twenty-five new piers were built under the immediate supervision of Jacob A. Westerveit, then Superintendent of Construction and now Freedent of the Hoard of Docks. During the same time over 200 piers were repaired, and the intermediate builtheads, which were in ball condition, were also restored. The actual frontage of the river wall, or granite builtheads, which were in ball condition, were also restored. The series of the first duries on May 1, 1873, were compatible to the same of the piers have been added to the same time of the difference of th

## THE INDIANS.

SEVEN MILLIONS A YEAR TO FEED THEM. MRS. SWISSHELM ON THE ESTIMATES OF THE INDIAN BUREAU-FORCING INDIANS TO EAT " WHITE MAN'S REEF"-A WILD PEOPLE DEMORALIZED BY FREE RATIONS.

which have proceeded from official headquarters on the

Sin: Among the many important documents

Snapeial question of retrenchment vs. increased taxa one should retrench, but does not propose reducing the is quite enamored of national economy, but feels that deven millions is the lowest figure at which it hopes to be able to feed those interesting Government pets, who through much labor of the Peace Commissioners, have man's beef." White man ought to be forever grateful to the Commissioners; for, without this consent, what white man who makes a large profit by farnishing the eef, will be all gratitude; and the Commissioners, who get nice salaries for their benevolent labora, will fefor their success in this patriotic mission, this grand them nothing. It does seem strange that they should bave had to go way off into Mexico to find beef eaters while here, in Chicago, 2,000 stal wart men have openly beans, or any other; wholesome food that Governo or any one else was willing to supply; but we profer them. Our beeffess men have made some such proposi tion to the city government, under the cry of blood;" but she did not give them a loaf for the threat gave them no more bread than she had before inteand not a drop of blood. Is the Government of the United States so much weaker than that of a munici used to be a cry "Millions for defense, but not a cent for tribute!" What has become of the honor of a nation tribule of \$7,000,000 ayear, and extort the last dollar of it, from her fear's! What becomes of our plea of benevoence, Christian, missionary labor, and so forth and pow-wows not to hurt him; and authorizes them to buy one year out of the 27 of his trading existence 12 If this Indian question had not so long been a hopeless from which men thersistently turn

away, as from all loathsome, hopsless things, a thrill of indignation must have run through the national heart at this cool official announcement that we have paid. and still propose paying, to independent nations, seven millions annually, for fear we shall have to fight them. But our Peace Commissioners will tell us Ithat it is no the feeding policy, but tear that we, a mighty nation, ar present arrangement for driving in or coaxing wild and by a yearly supply of this pure blood rather more cef enting! Did a powerful nation ever before in the history of the world adopt such means to exterminate a onquered people, and was over such a work of demorlization and destruction carried on under the guise of Christian missionary tabor! If those people must be exterminated by our miserable applogy for Christian eivilization, why not appoint Sheridan, Harney, and Curtis to the work ! Why not hand them over to the army, with orders to make an end of them in the shortst possible time, and send their souls to the Giver with hat remnant of savage virans yet remains to them ! the horrors of pasperism, vice, and crime, to a certain, thing ! The answer is at hand. We do it that the Incan and its agents may fatten on the spoils of bumanity. We compel Indians "to eat white man's beef," that white men may have an opportunity to rob the Government under pretext of furnishing that beef. We demoralize, pauperize, and exterminate whole n carrying elections and misleading the great body of the national wire-pollers may desire to carry. The money paid out through the Indian Bureau for the sustenance of Indiana is simply a great corruption fund, wrangout of a hoodwinked people on a false plea of

is no many reason why Gwarnment should fend Indians than any other class of bardy frontiersmen. They are just as able to raise their own beef as white men theirs, and have just as good an opportunity. This opportunity they would embrace if it were not for the ares to idlenous held out by the petty meddling of Goverument agents, who are following them up with offers of free rations. It is these rations which have converted thousands of them into idle, dangerous vagabonds, into loating, disease-devoured gamblers, and sent them to drunkards' graves. This fact has long been known to people of sense who were familiar with the workings of our Indian policy, and now it is fatrly acknowledged in this final official estimate of the cost of carrying on the business for another year. JANE GREY SWISSHELM. Chicago, Ill., Jan. 10, 1874.

PRESIDENT GRANT AND THE SUPREME COURT.

REVIEW OF THE PRESIDENT'S NOMINATIONS TO THE SUPREME BENCH-A RIDICULOUS AND SCAN-DALOUS LIST-THE LEGAL-TENDER DECISION-THE SEARCH FOR A CHIEF-JUSTICE.

SIR: It is so seldom that a vacancy occurs on the Supreme Bench, either by death or by resignation, that a President is rarely called upon to fulfill the deli cate and responsible duty of naming a member of our highest and our most respected court. It is a task as tifficult as it is important, and should be held as far aloof from the petty wrangles and turmoil of office-holders and office-seekers as should be the Bench itself. President Grant has been put to this test more frequently than most of his predecessors. Jackson and Lincoln have been the only Presidents since Washington who have filled five vacancies on the Bench; and only John Adams, Jefferson, and Van Buren, appointed three Judges each ; while President Grant has appointed four. Considering that there have been but 38 Associate Jus-Considering that there have been but as associate one of whom. John Rutledge, a former Associate Justice, was never confirmed, the nature of this high duty becomes more apparent, and a review of President Grant's performance of it may not be untimely.

The names of Judges Bradley and Strong, whom he first placed on the Bench, have always been linked to gether, not only because their commissions are dated little more than thirty days apart, but because on their accession to the Bench the Legal-Tender decision was reversed by means of their votes, to the scandal of the irremediable weakening of the prestige of the Court. The fact that both of these lawyers were counsel for powerful railway corporations whose interest it was to reverse that decision, and the circumstances surround ing their appointment, have forever fixed in the public mind the conviction that their first prominent work was that which they were placed on the Bench to do. The result of President Grant's action was heard with dismay in this country, and with astonishment and disgust in Europe; and the appointment of these Judges was recognized as the first against which so much as a whisper of improper motives could be raised. It was blow at the dignity and honor of the Court from which it has never recovered, and the acknowledged learning and ability of those Judges can never restore to that tribungl the high standard they themselves have lowered. The third Judge of President Grant's appointment to

Ward Hunt of this State, who filled the vacancy caused by the resignation of Judge Neison. It was significantly stated in the papers at the time of his appointment that Judge Hunt was a townsman of Senator Conkling's.
Although this no doubt afforded the Judge abundant opportunity to contemplate the most majestic creature of his time, it was hardly a sufficient guaranty of the candidate's intellectual ability. When the nomination was first announced in Washington, a leading official said : " He'll do to determine the validity of a mortrage.

but he's not the man to grasp and decide great on tional questions." This fairly expressed the general opinion, which has undergone no change. There can be little doubt that President Grant, to see his favorite theory put in practice — that one should take care of one's friends—raised a man to the bench who was not in any way qualified for it. Ward Hunt is a highly respect ble Judge, but to say that, out of the hundreds of able lawyers in the country, he is one of the nine best fitted to sit on the Supreme Bench, is a lamentable absurdity.

Three nominations made by President Graut the Senate virtually refused to confirm, while another, the seventh on the list, has been approved by a manimous rote. The first of these, that of E. Rockwood Hoar, was the only one of the seven, except Chief-Justice Waite's, which the Senate abould have confirmed, and was theredid not confirm. The pottiness of the motives which in disclosed in your columns. I trust that the people will remember it long after these bonorable Senators wish it had been forgotten. The nomination of Judge Williams is still painfully fresh in the public mind, and worn out with much discussion. Suffice it to say that President and professional attainments unequal to so great a station, and refused to withdraw his name when he had discovered, or had every reason to think he had disposition. The people will do well to remember that if was not President Grant who saved them from the disgrace of having George H. Williams for Chief-Justice. Of the next of this strange series of nominations, that

of Careb Cushing for Chief-Justice, it is impossible to speak with any pationee. To fill the chair of Marshall and Chase, we were offered a legal merman, ball-lawyer, and haif-diplomat; an accomplished attorney of great skill and shrowdness but reported to be devoid of a conscience; a man of large fees and oily doquence, why, shifty, and adroit; a knight errant in law and reputed secret servener for the State Department; a courtier with each successive Administration, and yet a man whose only political affiliations had been with the party of Slavery and of Resotion. It was a singular courtier with each successive Administration, and yet a man whose only political affiliations had been with the party of Slavery and of Resotion. It was a singular anomaly, the nomination of this man as Chief-Justice, who approved of the Dred Scott decision, to a Senate which had up to that time refused to allow Taney's bust to be placed in the Supreme Court room, because, as Chief-Justice, he made the Dred Scott decision. Happily the Senate refused to confirm Mr. Cushing, even at the risk of adding a seventh unworthy name to this ridiculous and scandaloss list. But, to the infinite relief of the country, the President seemed to have been brought to realize, as nearly as such a thing is possible, that the people were not so anxious that the Chief-Justice should be a personal friend of the President as they were that he should be versed in the law and know the difference between good and evil. In Morrison R. Waite we have a Chief-Justice whose dignity, integrity, and learning win at least not prove so seanty as to degrade the Bench as which he sits.

Probably the philosophy of this series of blunders—some might give them a worse name—may be found in the prognant remark President Grant is reported to have made: "This is the most important place in my gift, and ought to be given to the man to whom I owe most." In that sentence is displayed the vulgarity of his conception of this important duty. He certainly seems to have had no affequate notion of the vast and far-reaching results of his action. If he had cherished a special animosity against the Court he could sot have granted it more effectually. Every nomination save two has been a direct blow at its dignity, its ability, or its purity. To serve one's friends is well, if it can be done rightfully; to serve one's friends at the expense of one's country is a cerime.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 26, 1874.

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LADIES' DEESS MATERIALS.

One of the features of THE WEEKLY TRIBUNE, which seems to give special satisfaction to great numbers of our country readers, is the plain statement of retail prices of dress goods for ladies. Many readers of the Daily will be interested in the sample of these weekly reports appended herewith, and all will be glad to know that they can be found regularly in THE WEEKLY TRIBUNE. SILKS, SOLID COLORS. | Silks, Solid Colors. | White. | Faille or gros grain, good | 19 in. | Douote chain, fine and durable | 23 in. | Bronze brown gros grain | 22-33 | Evening silks, light tints | 24 in. | Black Silks. |

Gros grain of good quality ...... 23 in. Merinos, fine and pretty, but not Merinos, fine and preity, but not heavy. \$\frac{8}{2}\$ in. Merinos, tine and preity, and heavy 36 in. Merinos, higher qualities. \$\frac{3}{2}\$ in. Merinos, higher qualities. \$\frac{3}{2}\$ in. Rajapore-Merino, ight goods. \$\frac{5}{2}\$ in. Cashmeres, good quality. \$\frac{27}{2}\$ in. Serge, Worsted, caunel's hair, fine waterproof. \$\frac{27}{2}\$ in. Wool popins, with silk stripe. \$\frac{27}{2}\$ in. Camel's hair, heavier. \$\frac{5}{2}\$ in. Silk striped velour, worsted and silk. \$\frac{27}{2}\$ in. Real Camel's hair in all shades.... 50 in. Satine..... Diagonal all wool, durable and | Bombazine, very fine. 36 in. Bombazine, good quality 35 in. Bombazine, lowest price, fair. 36 in. Henrietta cloth 40 in. Tamise cloth 31 in. Detaines 24 in. Delaines 45 in. 300, 180, 208, 1240, 190.

A LECTURE ON SECRET SOCIETIES DISTURBED BY CORNELL STUDENTS.

A lecture by Prof. C. A. Blanchard of Wheaton College, Chicago, on "Secret Societies and their Wheaton College, Chicago, on "Secret Societies and its unfedences," at Ithaca, on the 22d inst., was disturbed and its continuance prevented by "sneezes, hisses, affected coughing, stamping, groans, songs, cheers, swinging of hats, throwing of red pepper, and other disorderly proceedings." The Ithaca Journal stated these facts, and asserted that the disturbance was committed in large part by students of Cornell University. The charge was not denied by the students, one of whom wrote to The Journal saying that, if the students assisted in breaking up the lecture, "they performed a Christian deed, and ope they may well feel proud of." The student claimed it as his right "to show approbation or disapprobation of the sentiments of any speaker at any public meeting." The larger part speaker at any public meeting." The larger part of the letter is devoted to a personal dispute with the editor as to his right to attempt to keep order in the hall of which he has the charge. The report of the disturbance is not denied, and The Journal replies with references to similar outrages committed in Ithaca, among the perpetrators of which he recognized several students. Prof. Burt E. Wilder also publishes a letter students. Prof. Burt E. Wilder also publishes a letter students. Prof. Burt E. Wilder also publishes a letter students reasons for not attending the locaure, and requesting the publication of a petition to be shortly circulated for signatures among the students and citisons. The petition states the allegations of The Journal, gives the opinions of prominent educators on the influences of secret societies, and the resolution of the Faculty of Cornell University forbidding their organization unless shown to be favorable to scholarship, good order, and morality. Is closes with a request that the university morality is the correst the disturbance where it belongs, and test the correst the disturbance where it belongs, and test the correst